

***Navy Seabee Veterans of America***

# **CAN DO**

**Volume 26, Number 4, DEC. 2016**

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***95 Year Old Navy SeaBee Crochets Over One Hundred Twenty Blankets  
to Donate to Veterans Living in  
West Palm Beach VA Medical Center!***

**Meet...WWII Seabee  
Donatien (Don) M'Sadoques  
See Article on page 6**

CAN DO is published for members of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America four times each year—in March, June, September, and December. **EDITORS NOTE:** Please send in your submittals prior to the cut-off date to allow time for editorial work to be accomplished by the printing deadline. If possible all submittals must be in either PDF or WORD file. Please send all submittals to the new e-mail address for the Can Do ([nsvacandoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:nsvacandoeditor@gmail.com)). Photos and listings in regular mail will be returned. All Can Do Articles with photos must be submitted as you would like it to see it with all personnel listed L-R in WORD program if you can! **CAN DO EDITOR** Carl Barrett, 1700 Glen Abby Lane, FL 33881

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**NOTICE: DEADLINE FOR MARCH 2017 CAN DO IS FEB. 15, 2017!**



Navy Seabee Veterans of America welcomes all veterans age 18 or older, any rank, rate or branch of service, with honorable service in or with the U.S. Naval Construction Forces or Naval Facilities Command. **Down load a membership application at [www.nsva.org](http://www.nsva.org) or contact National Secretary: Charles H. Coffin, 16 Graham Ave., West haven, CT, NSVA, New Seabee Phone Number: 203-843-5513.**

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## 2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION AT GEORGIAN RESORT, NEW YORK

**NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA**  
**Commander's Corner –December 2016**

Greetings all, I am John J. Hillyer III, and I was recently elected National Commander, NSVA, I have been a Life member of Navy Seabee Veterans of America and Island X-11 Tampa since 1982. Other SVA Positions, Commander Island X-11, Tampa; Commander, Dept. of Florida; and NSVA Southeast District Commander.

I have been a Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Explorer Scout and Junior Air Cadet. Played football, ran track and marched in the band at King High School, Tampa, Fl. Graduated June of '62. I enlisted in the Naval Reserve Seabees, RMCB-14 , Jan. 1962 while in high school, after graduation went to Great Lakes for recruit training, was Squad Leader. After that 2 weeks at Davisville, RI., for construction man training. Jan 1963, went on active duty, assigned to MCB-4, March '63, sent to Argentia, Newfoundland on an LSD. Upon returning to CONUS, made CMA3, I was assigned on a SEABEE Technical Assistance Team or "STAT Team" for training. Jan/Feb '64, the battalion went to Camp Lejeune, NC. for 6 wks., 2 wks. on the rifle range, 2wks at ITR, 2 wks. Courthouse Bay for Combat Demolitions Training. Next LST 1178, to Gitmo for 7 months, light equipment shop supervisor, returned to D-ville on an AKA, with the equipment party. Deployed to Rota, Spain, spring of '65, on an MSTS troop ship, worked in the mechanic shop, night shift, returned stateside on another Army troop ship. Another trip to Camp Lejeune, this time as the convoy mechanic, worked on our vehicles for 4 wks, late Oct. '65, I with 7 others were transferred to MCB-6, 1 Nov 65 on an LST to Gitmo, all kinds of military training. Jan. 1966, C -130 to Quonset Point, RI, snow on the ground, released from Active Duty.

Back to Florida, back in the reserves, progressed through the ranks, made Chief in 1974, Senior Chief, 1982, Masterchief 1988, numerous assignments, Platoon Commander, Weapons Platoon Commander, Equipment Officer, Heavy Shop supervisor, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, Alpha and Charlie Company Chief, on deployment Alpha Company Commander twice, Charlie Company commander once. Was assigned as Command Senior/Master Chief for SELRES at Reserve Center, Tampa, 1987-1992.

Officially Retired as EQCM Sep. 1993. PS, My Navy roots, Grandfather; on the USS Tacoma C-18, Cruiser 1907-1911, Father; joined Seabees 1942, assigned 64th NCB as CM2(Carpenters Mate Second Class, retired as BUC, Brother; Submarines, diesel Boats 1960's. GO Navy- Beat Army

John Hillyer

# Please read this is very important

A great Seabee day to all:

As a lot of you may know the **Can Do** has fallen on hard time with higher costs and less issues being printed, in an effort to bring it back to full publication we need to update a lot of information.

Over the last few years many have moved, passed away or just plain lost interest. This form will be placed in the **Can Do** for one year and must be filled out or the information forwarded to the National Secretary if you wish to continue receiving the mailed copy.

The publication will be on the web site each quarter from here on out.

If you wish to stop receiving hard copies, one can be E-mail to you.

It is of the utmost importance that we receive this information as soon as possible.

If NO response is received from you to the National Secretary we can only assume you do not wish to receive the Can DO.

MEMBERSHIP: Island \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State; \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(S) Served with: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Life Membership Number if you are one: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or email this information to: Charles Coffin, National Secretary  
Navy Seabee Veterans of America  
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Phone: 1-203-843-5513  
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**95 Year Old Navy SeaBee Crochets Over One Hundred Twenty Blankets  
to Donate to Veterans Living in  
West Palm Beach VA Medical Center!**



**Meet...  
Donatien (Don) M'Sadoques**

He was born on March 19, 1921. He is from the Abenaki Tribe located in Odanak; a Native American Reservation in Canada. He and his twin brother, Lucien, were the second oldest children of a family of 10 kids. He grew up poor, yet and still, he was the child who was the caregiver in his family. He was the child who went with the priest from home to home to give the dying their last rites. He was the child who wove baskets for his mother. Baskets she would sell to help support the family. When he was 17, he left the reservation and worked in neighboring towns and, of course, sent most of his earnings home to help his family. He decided to migrate to the U.S. and settled in Connecticut. In 1942, when he was 21, he and his twin brother both enlisted into the United States Navy Seabees and served in the Pacific until 1945.

He married and lost his first wife (Jeanine) four short years later when his only child was just 2.5 years old. Sadly, his young wife died from complications due to Rheumatic Fever. After her death, he chose to raise his son with the help of his parents before he remarried at the age of 42. In the meantime, he was the spring board to the U.S. for most of his siblings and cared for both of his parents until their death. Eventually, he and his second wife, Esther, moved to Boynton Beach, FL where they lived together (40 years) until she fell ill with Myelodysplasia and succumbed to the disease over 15 years ago. As he did with his parents, he cared for her at their Boynton Beach home (where he still resides) until she died.

He is loved and respected by all who know him; especially the hundreds of residents of his community, Jamaica Bay. He was the man who would bring the community together with Friday night dinners, pancake breakfasts and community barbeques. He would "deliver" to those who were shut-in. He was the man who would check on folks who were hurt or came down with any kind of illness. He is a "giver" and took little.

**Two years ago he fell seriously ill and that's where I come in. I am his Caregiver. I have cared for this gentle soul for nearly two years now. To be honest, when I stepped in, I didn't think I would be here two weeks...yet here I am; so blessed to be here spending the days with him.**

During my time with him, I discovered how talented he is at knitting and crocheting. The blankets he made were incredibly beautiful, but the sweaters? The sweaters he made, with the most intricate designs, were beyond anything one could purchase at a high end store.

Due to his illness, he had all but stopped creating these beautiful things. Then one day I asked him to crochet something that I would be able to put a manger on for the holiday season. As I watched him crochet this beautiful red and white table cover (where the manger would be displayed), I saw a man with a "purpose." I realized how much joy this "purpose" brought to him. I tried to think of something he/we could do that would continue to bring "purpose" to his life and ...enter lap blankets.

Since February 2016, we (after a few online lessons for me!) began crocheting lap blankets and we thought it would be wonderful if we were to bring these blankets to the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center for the Vets living there.

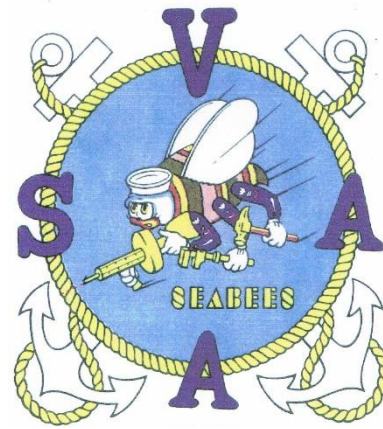


***This is Don after we completed 50 blanks. We now have over 120, so what you see in the picture is less than half of what we actually have.***

When his community learned about our project, they came together and dropped off tons of yarn for us to continue on this mission. So once again, at 95.5 years of age, he is able to bring this community together for a common cause. He is, without a doubt, the kindest, gentlest, caring soul I have ever encountered. He is the ultimate humble servant! He served his family. He served his country. He served his community and his friends, and he did it well and faithfully. Imagine...at 95.5 his life is still about giving.

With the holiday season right around the corner, I hope, by sharing his story, we are all inspired by Don's life of giving and selflessness.

Thank you for allowing me to share the story of such a special human being.



President's Perspective  
By Nancy Staples

## **HERE ARE YOUR 2015-2017 NSVAA NATIONAL OFFICERS**

**From the left: Linda Hillyer, Chaplain and Historian; Elaine Coffin, Secretary/Parliamentarian; Linda Schmuck, Treasurer; Betty Nelson, Vice President; and Nancy Staples, President. The 2016 National Convention at Lake George, NY was one that was well attended and we voted in many new resolutions. I will briefly explain them. They will be included in the next By Law printing.**

### **Article V Organization Section 3 Sub-section A**

**Minimum of 3 members are need to organize a Navy SVAA Island (changed from 5 members)**

### **Article V Organization/Departments Section 5 Sub-section Final Paragraph.**

**Move the paragraph to Article VI Finances Section 8 (Misplaced paragraph)**

### **Article VI Finance Section 9 NEW By-Law**

**All past National Auxiliary Presidents, having successfully completed his/her term in office and having maintained good standing within the organization for an additional 6 years, shall be eligible for free life membership in the Navy SVAA.**



**Article X Election and Duties Section 3 Subsection A NEW By-law**  
No National Officer shall hold more than one elected office in the National NavySVAA at any one time.

**Article X Section 3 Sub-Section B**

**Revision.** Election of Officers shall be held every two years. All National Officers shall hold office for two years unless removed by resignation, death, or action by the National Executive Committee. (Reason—this is to prevent the continuous term of an officer in their elected position. If no opponent is presented, under the current by-law the last elected National Officer remains in place.)

**Article X Election and Duties Section 4 NEW By-law**

Current Navy SVAA Officers who are active in any Navy NSVAA Island, Department, or Member at Large and are confirmed members in good standing shall be eligible for re-election by members present at the National Convention pursuant to Article IX section 4. (Currently no requirements for re-election to a National Office)

**Article X Election and Duties Section 4 Sub-Section A NEW By-law**

The National Convention shall elect one (1) National President and one (1) National Vice President to serve no more than two (2) consecutive two (2) year terms. They shall not be eligible for re-election to their respective office for a period of 1 term (2) years. (Currently no term limits on elected National Officers.)

**Article X Election and Duties Section 4 Sub-Section B NEW By-law**

The Nation Convention shall also elect one (1) National Secretary and one (1) National Treasurer to serve until he/she resigns, is unable to act, or is removed by action of the National Convention for failure to duly perform his/her duties as specified in Article X Duties of Officers sections 3 and 4 respectively. (Currently there are no term limits on elected National Officers. These limits mirror the Navy SVA limits for these offices.)

**Article X Election and Duties Section 5 NEW By-Law**

**Installation of Officers.** National Officers shall be installed at the end of the Annual National Convention meeting. Transfer of duties from prior National Officers to newly elected National Officers shall occur at the Annual Post

Convention Meeting. (There is currently no time table for installation of

**National Officers following election.)**

**WOW, I guess we covered a lot at the convention. Other items were discussed, as well as new application forms. These will be further discussed at the mid-year meeting.**

**Election of officers will be held at the National Convention in 2017. All offices are open for election. Think about it. Would you like to help form a bigger and better NSVAA?**

**If you need information on how to form an Auxiliary or become a Member at Large, please let one of the officers know.**

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## NSVA Island X-3 Blairsville, Georgia

On 14 October 2016 at the monthly meeting of Seabees at NSVA Island X-3 Blairsville, Georgia three members of X-3 were honored for their war time service with a "Quilt Of Valor" presentation. Quilts Of Valor are presented to those veterans and active duty military who have served in combat zones. The patriotic quilts represent a "Thank You" for what each individual has done to defend and protect our nation. Each Quilt Of Valor presented is registered with the National Archives. These particular quilts were made and donated by the Misty Mountain Quilts Of Valor Outreach, Blairsville, GA. Congratulations to Island Members, Reese Ward, Jerry Cannon and Keith Hunter.

Picture:  
Left to right  
Reese Ward, Jerry Cannon and Keith Hunter



## **NSVA ISLAND IV OF PENNSYLVANIA TRADITION, HERITAGE, SERVICE.**

The members of Island IV, have long followed their Traditions. In August they held their annual summers end picnic. It again was held at the residence of Michael Boncheck, where for decades The Seabee Detachment of MCB 21, Naval Station Avoca Pa., would swarm. This year was no different. The event drew many of veterans and retired members of MCB 21 from areas the Battalion once had detachments, along with members of Island IV Seabees, their wives and girlfriends enjoyed a great time.



**Island IV membership is made up of WWII through Afghanistan Veterans.  
All of them are proud of being a "SEABEE"**

**The membership at the Picnic discussed plans to locally celebrate the 75th Birthday of the United States Navy Seabees.**

**Plans are to host a 75th Birthday Party at the VFW Dupont Pa. on Saturday March 4th. The party will be open to all Seabees' or those that served in support of them. For more details contact [alnudelman@gmail.com](mailto:alnudelman@gmail.com). We are hoping to expand on the trial run of the 74th. The location is close to the Scranton -Wilkes Barre Airport, and many hotels along with the Mohegan Sun Casino.**

## Island IV and the US Naval Academy Marathon Team Unbeatable.

The Marathon Team of the United States Naval Academy have been adopted as a service project for the NSVA Island IV of PA, the VFW Eynon, Pa, for the past 10years. This year added support from "SEABEEPRIDE.COM" has come on- board.

It has been Island IV of Pa and the VFW that has provided logistical, nutritional, and



local hospitality for the Midshipman visits for the Steamtown Marathon. They and their families were treated to a pre race pasta diner hosted by the VFW POST 7963 of Eynon Pa and Island IV., during the program they heard "sea stories" and accounts of true heroism from veterans present, and they about their goals in the Navy and Marines.

This year "SEABEEPRIDE.COM" which is run by a west coast former Seabee, teamed up with us to give the Midshipmen "TEAM SPIRIT GEAR" T- shirts first run editions of a design developed by Vince Orlando for them. This design was also put on quality digital running jersey that were also presented to the team, and worn during the post race party hosted at the home of one of the members of Island IV. Pictures on the next page.



In the words of these young men and women;

“The Steamtown Marathon was a memorable race for all. The course was fast and scenic, and the weather on race day was ideal. The team was able to push ourselves physically and learn from four generations of service members whose legacy will guide us in our future careers as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps

Report prepared by 3/ C Cassandra Dooley and 1/C Abigail Perdeu



# The World Lost a Seabee Today



**By age 31, Andrew Breino ET accomplished more than many of us do in a lifetime.**

**Let me introduce you to his family:**

**Center: Andrew's wife, mother of three.**

**At her side are their 2 young daughters.**

**Lower right: Their 3 month old son.**

**Right: Andrew's younger brother in Navy Dress Blues.**

**Andrew served in The United States Air Force from 2003 to 2006 and in The United States Navy Seabees from 2006 to 2011. He received honorable discharges from both. He was awarded the following medals/ribbons/badges**

**The Air Force Achievement Medal and the Navy/ Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star, the Navy E ribbon, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, NATO defense medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3rd award), the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and Seabee Combat Warfare Device & Expert pistol/rifle badge.**

**Andrew joined the U.S. Air Force in 2003 and served as an (OT) Optometry Technician at Luke Air Force Base until 2006.**

**Andrew joined the U.S. Navy Seabees in 2006 and served as an (ET) Electronic Technician until 2011.**

**His Seabee travels with **NMCB-133** took him from Gulfport MS to South East Asia, including 2 tours to Okinawa, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and then Afghanistan in 2010.**

**His duties, projects, and missions included humanitarian efforts and Engineering Civil Actions Projects. He built schools, restrooms, installed submersible pumps as well as renewable energy sources and a wind-powered turbine and solar panels.**

**He was a member of the CARAT ENCAP Cruise; (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Engineering Civil Actions Projects)  
He worked with Thai Marines and U.S. Marines.**

**By John O'Brien U.S. Navy Seabee, Island X-5 Arizona**



# MICHAEL F. HENNESSEY

1917 – 2001

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## OLD SEABEES NEVER DIE

**THEY JUST ADVANCE A BASE** me old Seabees have gone ahead,  
as they've often done before  
**To set up a great Advance Base, upon some distant shore.**

**They've gone to build some Quonset huts erect a mess hall, too  
There will even be a beer hall  
to serve some three point two.**

**They'll welcome Marine shore parties, G.I.'s and Anzacs, too.  
And when the fleet drops anchor, they'll welcome every crew.**

**They'll put down some Marston matting, so the friendly planes can  
land.  
And when a mate's in trouble,  
they'll be there to lend a hand.**

**Don't grieve for your Seabee buddies,  
- they really didn't die,  
They have just gone ahead  
to the Advance Base in the sky.**

**To quote our old Seabee motto,  
which has always been: "CAN DO"  
When your transfer has been approved, they'll be there to welcome  
you.**

**Michael F. Hennessey 7th U.S.N. Seabees**

# “WE BUILD WE FIGHT”



*Above is an example of the Giclée print in a walnut with gold lip frame.*

**“WE BUILD, WE FIGHT” was created in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Navy Seabees occurring 5 March, 2017.**

**Seabees – their simple motto tells their story: “We build, We fight.” For 75 years the Seabees have demonstrated their skills as builders and fighters. From the islands of the Pacific, to the jungles of Vietnam, to the mountains of Bosnia, and to the sands of the Mideast; they have built and fought around the globe for freedom through the years to preserve our liberties abroad and at home. In peacetime, they have been goodwill ambassadors, sharing American values across the world. In peace and in war, they have lived their slogan: “Can Do!”**

**This limited edition print is a montage of the Seabee experience over the past 75 years. The intent of the painting is to show how the mission of the Seabees remained steadfast throughout their history despite changes in where they work, the tools of their trade, and the ever-changing world. Using photographs housed at the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, California, the artist has created a background that spans the history of the Seabees, morphing from a scene of airfield construction on one of the Pacific islands during World War II on the left to one of airfield construction in current day combat operations on the right.**

The figures featured in the center of the portrait depict how the Seabees themselves have changed over the years both with respect to diversity and the uniform they wore. On the far left is a Civil Engineer Corps officer in khaki's reviewing a set of construction drawings standing next to a bare-chested enlisted Seabee in dungarees from World War II. In the center stands a Vietnam-era Seabee wearing the classic green utilities, a soft cover, and a flak jacket. Crouched in front are a Cold War-era Seabee Chief Petty Officer in woodland camouflage uniform and a Seabee diver wearing the green digital camouflage uniform, as well as a current Seabee in digital camouflage standing behind him wearing a hard hat. On the far right a female Seabee wears the original three color desert uniform. All are focused and ready to accomplish their mission. Seabees Can Do.

The original oil painting by James Dietz will be dedicated to all Seabees past, present, and future during the 75th Anniversary celebrations and will be permanently on display at the Seabee Museum in Pt. Hueneme, California.

Dear Seabees,

You may have seen the promo we did in our last Seabee Quarterly about the availability of the prints of the painting that we commissioned to help recognize the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Seabees. In case you missed it, I have attached the copy for the two pages.

We are working to spread the word about the painting and the availability of copies of prints of the painting, as far and wide as possible. Would you check to see if the NSVA will agree to put the information in their next issue of the "Can Do"? If so, they should be able to use the attached, as it is hires, but if they have a problem, have them get back to me.

The response to the painting has been nothing but positive and I hope that you have had a chance to take a good look at it. We donated a framed 25" x 50" Giclee framed print to the Chief's office and were up there at the end of July to see it hung in the front office. The Chief liked it so much that he bought the same sized print for himself.

Thanks.

Bill

William C. Hilderbrand  
Captain, CEC, USN (Ret.)  
President  
CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation  
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## Print Ordering Options

“WE BUILD, WE FIGHT” was created in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Navy Seabees occurring 5 March, 2017 and is dedicated to all Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps officers past, present, and future. The original oil painting by James Dietz will be dedicated during the 75th Anniversary celebrations and will be permanently on display at the Seabee Museum in Pt. Hueneeme, California.

*Please check the appropriate boxes and/or fill in the desired quantity.  
Each limited edition print is individually numbered and signed by the artist.*

### Package One

A signed, numbered print. Image size 23" x 12.5"; print size 31" x 19".

Cost Each Qty Subtotal

Tube packed with a Certificate of Authenticity.

\$95 x \_\_\_\_\_

*Includes \$20 shipping, handling, and insurance.*

### Package Two

A signed and numbered print, with your choice of mat

\$450 x \_\_\_\_\_

and frame, and a Certificate of Authenticity.

*Includes \$30 shipping, handling, and insurance. Please select the following options:*

Frame \_\_\_\_\_

#### Frame Options

Matting \_\_\_\_\_

#### Matting Options

Beige and Dark Olive -OR- Beige and Navy Blue

### Package Two Add-On:

Two (2) Special Edition Seabee 75th Anniversary Coins embedded into the matting.

Add-On: \$50 x \_\_\_\_\_

### Package Three

Custom Giclée of the Original Painting. Limited run of 75 signed and numbered Giclée prints, framed in the same style as the original painting.

#### Size Options

20" x 40" Framed Giclée \$700 x \_\_\_\_\_

*Includes \$100 shipping, handling, and insurance.*

25" x 50" Framed Giclée \$975 x \_\_\_\_\_

*Includes \$125 shipping, handling, and insurance.*

30" x 60" Framed Giclée \$1,345 x \_\_\_\_\_

*Includes \$145 shipping, handling, and insurance.*

#### Total:

## Ordering Information

*Please fill in the following information.*

*Order forms may be sent to  
and checks made payable to:*

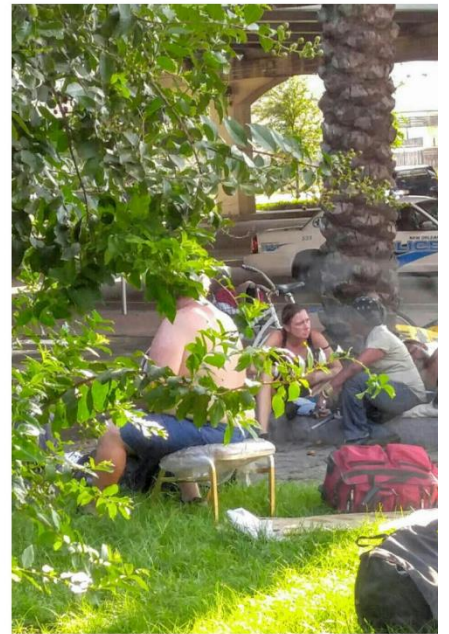
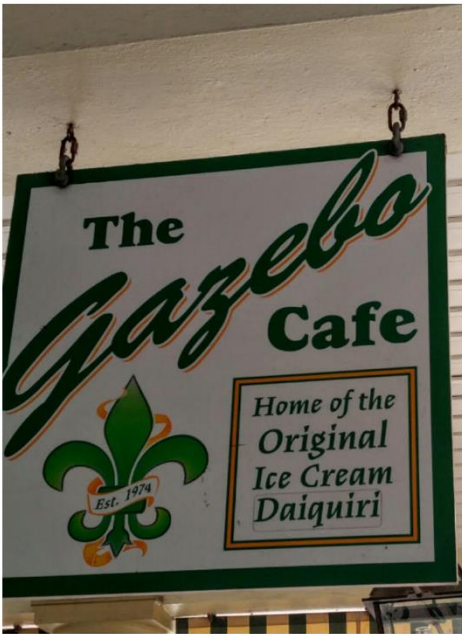
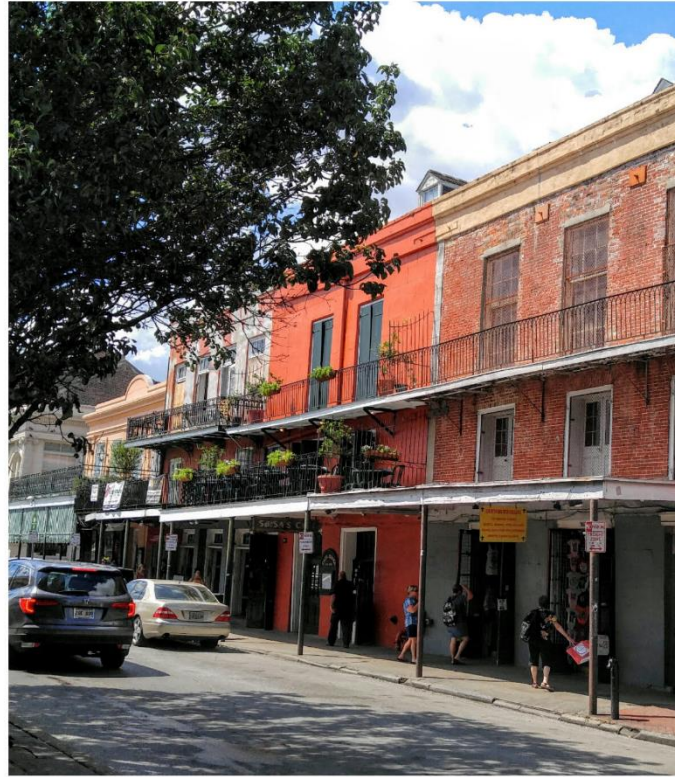
CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation  
P.O. Box 657  
Gulfport, MS 39502-0657

## REUNION EVENTS:

	<p>NMCB-7 REUNION PHOTOS</p> <p>NEW ORLEANS, LA.</p> <p>SEPT. 22-27 2016</p>
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Guest Speaker Butch Cassell CMDMC, NCBC Gulfport, MS  
& Denny Blaisdell Reunion Executive Director



Tour of New Orleans



J.D. Crews & Paul Landry Registration, Jimmy Sorenson & Carl Barrett enjoying New Orleans Gumbo & dessert

## NMCB 4 - Reunion News – Springfield, VA - 2016



45 Seabee Veterans of NMCB 4 plus 32 Spouses and Guests met in Springfield, Virginia September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Springfield Hilton Hotel was Headquarters for the Reunion. Thank You to the Reunion Committee, headed up by BUC Jeff Parker and included Capt. Thomas Stallman, Lt. Al Duncan, and EQCM Ray Richards. Special Thanks to Jeff Parker for acting as the Reunion Host and recruiting his children (Bryan and Amanda), and grandchildren to help with the arrangements, going beyond the Call of Duty to make the Reunion a Memorable experience. Friday evening festivities included socializing, dinner, and music provided by Tina Bell. The Invocation was provided by Retired Chaplain Gil Gibson, a former Seabee. The significance of the "Table for One" honoring Shipmates who are no longer with us was explained. Captain Stallman who served as NMCB 4 Executive Officer, 1965-1967, during two deployments to Vietnam was the keynote speaker.

The Saturday bus tour of Washington began with a stop at the Seabee Memorial Monument located in Arlington Cemetery. The second stop was at the Navy Memorial for photos, lunch, and couple hours to explore Washington on foot. Some adventurous souls walked Pennsylvania Avenue to view the White House. The bus tour continued with a stop at the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial" and driving tour around the National Mall. After group pictures were taken Saturday evening a banquet was prepared for our enjoyment. Colors were presented by the US Navy Ceremonial Color Guard. Thank you to the young Sailors of the Color Guard for taking time out of their schedule to present Colors. Chaplain Gibson gave the Invocation and recognized the names of Shipmates who have passed since our last Reunion. Thank you Gill for providing your services to our organization.



In memory of NMCB 4 Seabees Killed in Action a "Fallen Warrior" Ceremony was performed. The name of each of the fallen was read as a bell was tolled. The Ceremony was very moving. A special Thanks to Jeff Parker for compiling the list of Fallen and providing the uniform, weapon and bell to perform the Ceremony.

This is the first Reunion I have attended that the "Fallen Warrior" Ceremony was performed. Ceremony, I recommend we strive to include it in future Reunions.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Mr. Dennis Biddick, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs.

Mr. Biddick is also a retired Captain of the Civil Engineer Corps. Entertainment for the evening was provided by the "5<sup>th</sup> of August Band". All in attendance enjoyed the Reunion Festivities, the renewal of old friendships and making new friends.



trip to the USS New Jersey BB-62, in Camden New Jersey just up the river from where she was built at the Philadelphia Ship Yard.



**This turned out to be an educational trip for many of the Seabee's who were never on a ship, and a reminder of our Naval Heritage**



- It was also a time to see some of our distant brothers that we served with from the Philadelphia area, and for some fathers and sons to spend time together talking about their service in the Navy. On such son was Chief Joe Pehanick and his father. Coincidence has it that Joe's dad served on the USS IOWA BB-61 while Joe just retired from the Seabee's after serving in recent conflicts. The group spent hours on the ship escorted by a very knowledgeable Retired Gunners mate who gave us the tour. We then enjoyed an onboard BBQ that was arranged for the group.



For their outstanding construction feats in Vietnam, the Men of TEN were awarded the prized **Navy Unit Commendation** and were picked as **Best of Type of the Pacific Fleet Mobile Construction Battalions**.

History began to repeat itself for NMCB TEN as the battalion started to retrain for its next deployment. With a tremendous amount of priority work to be done in Vietnam the Men of TEN were given the call to return to Vietnam for their third deployment.

Near the end of this, the Quang Tri deployment, the Men of TEN learned they had been named 1967 winner of the valued **Peltier Award**, as the best construction battalion of both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.



Three Seabees in this room at the Island X-5 AZ Meeting on September 24, 2016, were in the same MCB-10 Battalion 49 years ago in 1967



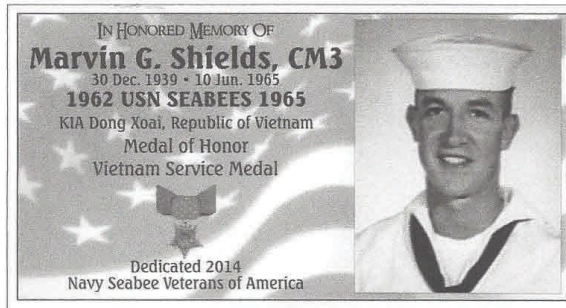
BUHCN J.R. O'Brien  
Philadelphia, Penn.



CMH2 D. Christensen  
Eden, Utah



EON2 S. Perkarski  
Ozone Park, N.Y.



**NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS**

January 1, 2015 Greetings;

As we enter the New Year and our second letter for your support, you will recall we are engaged in a fund raising to honor our Seabee CM3 Marvin G. Shields by fund raising effort to bring the level of the original Seabee Memorial Scholarship to the current level of \$50,000.00. Over the years the levels have increased to keep pace with the costs of Scholarships. 2015 Fiftieth honoring anniversary of our Seabee Brother CM3 Marvin G. Shields. Ceremony to be held on June 10, 2015 at Gardiner, WA all are encouraged to attend.

We had intended to have a second letter out prior to the end of 2014 to encourage support of the 2014 time frame but discovered there was a Historical Foundation effort to raise funds during a Seabee Giving Week in early December. That time frame and the Christmas season encouraged me to reset this letter to early 2015. That very successful effort is recognized as a major success for the Foundation in 2014. WELL DONE TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE MUSEUM EFFORT.

The NavySVA effort is off to a good start and will continue with a flow of ongoing letters and requests with encouragement for all to participate in the scholarship effort to show our 50 years of honor and respect for our Fallen Brother.

-----cut here and mail today thank you-----

Your contributions to the scholarship are encouraged and will be accepted until we have reached our goal of \$43,000.00 to bring the original level of the Scholarship Fund up to the new level set three years ago to keep pace with the ongoing cost of successful candidates selected for the Scholarship.

Circle your contribution today: \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_/\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_/\$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Write in )

Mail to: **Mel Ramige 555 Fairview Avenue, Creve Coeur, IL 61610-3237** your name will appear in the CAN DO issue at the conclusion of the effort to increase the funds of the Scholarship. Add your name, address, phone number plus your email enclose your check and mail as shown above to the National Secretary.

Please pass this request on to all in your address book as it will assist in the effort to honor CM3 Marvin G. Shields.

Respectfully submitted: *Jerry Landcastle*, Past National Commander

## **ANNUAL REUNIONS / CONVENTIONS / NOTICES**

### **NMCB-62 REUNION NOTICE**

NMCB 62 will hold our 2017 reunion with the Gulfport ALL SEABEE reunion from 27 April through 30 April 2017 in Gulfport, MS. The reunion will start out Thursday, 27th, late-afternoon with the arrival get-together party at the hotel. Friday will be a day tour, followed by the Friday night Luau at the hotel. Saturday will be another day tour followed by the Grand Banquet and Program Saturday night at the hotel. On Sunday morning at 1030, NMCB 62 will hold our annual meeting in the Mississippi Room at the hotel. Following a very short Secretary-Treasurer report, each Seabee will have a chance to stand up and introduce themselves and spouse and say a few words about their Minuteman experience. We also invite those few Seabees who were stationed in Scotland, Ireland or England to attend our annual meeting. Many photos will be taken. Following our meeting will be the final outstanding reunion event, the grand picnic at the hotel. Plan on departing the hotel on Monday, 1 May 2017.

Contact Norm Hahn

- [normhahnjr@yahoo.com](mailto:normhahnjr@yahoo.com) cell: [715-379-8482](tel:715-379-8482). Website: [www.nmcb62alumni.org](http://www.nmcb62alumni.org).

Note: ANYONE wanting to receive a reunion schedule and registration form can email Glen Kellerman, [eqpackrat@aol.com](mailto:eqpackrat@aol.com), Island X-1, Gulfport and give him your name and email address and he will add you to his reunion information email list.

Norm Hahn - NSVA Life Member # 896

NMCB 62 Alumni Group Secretary

<http://www.nmcb62alumni.org>

[715-379-8482](tel:715-379-8482), call between 9am and 1pm CST



## **Veterans Day Parade Island X-23 Florida**

**Front row...Charlie Schoeffler, Joe Ketzner, Jeff Hickok, Kevin Hickok, John Lowe, and Richard Santella. Back row...Nancy Staples (National NSVAA President), Bev Schoeffler, Cliff Hickok, Marilyn Hickok, Barbara Watzek, and Karen Lowe (X-23 Auxiliary President)**



**Island X-23, Crystal River, FL., participated in the Massing of the Colors at the First Lutheran Church in Inverness, FL during veterans week activities. Many service organizations were there with their unit flags and their American flags. Pat Lyons carried the American flag and David Buchanan carried the Seabee flag in the procession. This year's theme is Honoring the Korean War Era Veterans. Pictured are Ann Lyons, Pat Lyons, Nancy Staples, David Buchanan, and Joan Buchanan**

**NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA, Inc.**

2016 National Convention in Lake George, NY.

Hosted by

Island X-14 Hudson Falls, NY.

September found the NSVA in New York at the invitation of Island X-14, Hudson Falls for our National Convention and they did a great job in coordinating the meetings with the free time.

Several members, close to 25, took advantage of the wine tasting event at the Adirondack Winery set up by Island X-14 members Charlie and Elaine Coffin.



Charlie is the National Secretary and Elaine is the Secretary and Parliamentarian to the National Auxiliary.

We all met at the Adirondack Winery store in Lake George, where they had several bottles of wine to taste and a sheet to keep track of what you liked and did not like so much.

With each flavored wine we were given a taste of their “dry” wine and a taste of their more “sweet” wine.

After 14 taste of the two different styles of wine we were given the chance to buy any that we liked of those 7 tasted or any other of the stores stock.

Several members walked out of the tasting with case lots under their arms.

Thank you to Charlie and Elaine for setting up this most interesting and thirst quenching outing for the SEABEES Joan and I had an especially good time.

David J. Buchanan, Past National Commander

**El Mirage, Arizona presents the Vietnam Traveling Wall  
Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 - Salute to all Veterans  
and the Vietnam era Families and Allies**



**Back row –L to R; Jerry Bittel, Fran & Ray Bunts, Monica “Little sis” Harvey, unknown,  
Jerry Landcastle and George Nesbit  
Front row – L to R; John O’Brien, James Johnston, Tom Havican and John Laskowski**





The Seabees that provided the first shift as “Name Locators” represented the following units:  
 NSA Da Nang, CBMU – 301, MCB - 3, 6, 10, 25, 28, 53, 62, and MCB - 74  
 Navy SVA, Island X -5 West Valley, AZ provided the Vietnam Commemoration Flag and  
 Vietnam Seabee Collage.

The City of El Mirage, Arizona provided the Vietnam Traveling Wall and Lapel Pins



Monica “Little sis” Harvey of the “VETERANS MUSIC MINISTRY”  
 was on duty to look for tears at the wall and provided Band Aid Heart Pins and the **HUGS**.

Submitted by John O’Brien Island X-5 West Valley AZ

## **NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA, Inc.**

David J. Buchanan, Past National Commander

I would like to openly congratulate Island X-14, Hudson Falls, NY. for the exceptional job they did putting the 2016 National Convention together for the SEABEES.

**Commander Lee Macura** and his convention committee did an excellent job in scheduling, although we did have to do a little shuffling of meeting rooms, that was a very minor obstacle to overcome. They were very insistent on having something for everyone to enjoy so the meetings were kept as short as possible, Thank you membership for speeding us along, leaving plenty of free time to take advantage of the many things Lake George had to offer. There was shopping and tours that were taken on one's own and the Dinner Cruise on beautiful scenic Lake George, the wine tasting event and music in the park.

We were fortunate to have a WWII SEABEE meet with us on the dinner cruise telling us he was glad we sang the SEABEE song so he knew we were there as he had lost contact with the SEABEES. We invited him to the banquet and were very happy when he showed up chaperoned by his son. His son said he talked about the experience all the way back to Vermont. There a couple of WWII SEABEES in attendance that we gave hats and patches to.



The banquet was another part of the convention that was handled extremely well. The choice of food was great, and the staff tried very hard to keep up even with the untimely death of one of their own waitress' that very afternoon.

Secretary Elaine Coffin passed on our condolences to the staff and management of the Hotel from the SEABEES.

Everyone had an excellent time, our meetings were very eventful and we elected new Executive Committee personnel to lead the NSVA for the next 2 years. Congratulations and Good luck to all of you.

This was one of the best run and attended conventions in several years and I thank Island X-14 for the outstanding job they all did.

David J. Buchanan, Past National Commander

## *Navy Seabee Veterans of America*

# CAN DO

**28th - 30th September 2017**

**X-11 and DoFL Welcomes the 71st National Convention to Tampa, FL.  
Combine the business with a loader bucket full of fun things to do.  
Host Hotel is the beautiful Sheraton Tampa East**

### Cafeteria Specials Your Choice

*Hard Rock Casino*

*Tampa Bay Rays vs. Baltimore*

*USS Victory Ship / Marines Museum Veterans*

*Memorial Park*

*Florida Aquarium*

*Tamara Cullen's Museum*

*Tampa Bay History Center*

*Busch Gardens*

*Lowery Park Zoo*

*Tampa's Riverwalk*

*Buccaneers' Footprints*



More details are in the follow up  
article in this issue, or contact  
**CAN DO**

**Ernie 813- 376-0500, eqcmnelson@aol.com**  
**PAGE 35** **DEC. 2016**



**Seabees, many of us are just back from the 70th NSVA Convention in Lake George NY. My wife and I had a great time. We renewed old friendships, met some new friends and look forward to the next convention in beautiful Tampa Fl. As you read on the cover of this “CAN DO” we have started the planning process. The Sheraton Tampa East is a very nice host hotel Close to I-75 and I-4. All the rooms have baloneys, there is a fantastic pool, restaurant and a lounge in the lobby. Parking is free and we will have free Wi-Fi. The hotel has a shuttle offered to guests for transportation to venues within five miles of the hotel. Hard Rock Hotel and Casino is within this radius as are many other restaurants.**

**As always the reason for the Convention is to take care of the business of the NSVA. But if you are like me; I enjoy side trips to local museums and attractions. The cover reflects a small portion of what we have to offer. In the next issue, I will share a expanded list of things to do on your own time. We will ask that if you have an interest in a certain museum or side trip please email me with what you would like to do. If there are enough participants, then we will try and work out the particular details and transportation.**

**The hotel has graciously offered the discounted room rate for three days before and three days after the convention.**

**That said you may want to consider a vacation to Tampa, (worth a thought and bring the family). NSVAA Vice-President Betty Nelson and DoFL Vice-Commander Ernie Nelson are the co-chairs for this event, Ernie can be contacted at [eqcmnelson@aol.com](mailto:eqcmnelson@aol.com), 813-376-0500 or Betty at [bettbud2000@aol.com](mailto:bettbud2000@aol.com) 813-376-3947**

28-30 Sept. 2017

Other Activities in Tampa, FL.





# FINAL SALUTE

BY NATIONAL SECRETARY, NAVY  
SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA,  
INC.



NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

**CAN DO**

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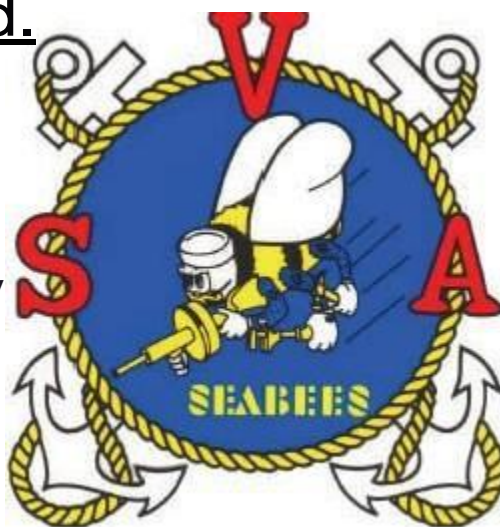
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Force or Naval Facilities Engineering  
Command.

Download a membership application at

[www.nsva.org](http://www.nsva.org)

Or contact Charles Coffin, Natl. Secy. Navy  
Seabee Veterans of America  
16 Graham Ave.  
West Haven, CT. 06516  
1-203-843-5513



**View or download CAN DO online at [www.nsva.org](http://www.nsva.org)**